

National Association



July 2024

Newsletter Now Available on Website

Rock Hall
President

Greetings everyone! To ensure everyone has access to the Newsletters they will now be available on our website; www.randbdeejays.org. We have created a Newsletter tab on the home page. All you have to do is click on the tab and the newsletter will be available. Hopefully, this will be more convenient to our members. Stay tune for more modernization of our website.

Let's Grow Together!

Hi everyone,
Our association thrives because of each and every one of you! As we continue to create a vibrant association, we invite you to help us expand our family.

How You Can Help:

1. Spread the Word: Talk to your friends, colleagues, and fellow DJs Let them know about our association.
2. Share on Social Media: Post about our association on your social channels. Tag us and use relevant hashtags. Your reach matters!
3. Invite aspiring DJs: Bring new DJs to your events. They'll get a taste of what we're all about, and who knows—they might want to join our association!

Remember, the more, the merrier! Let's welcome new faces, fresh ideas, and diverse perspectives. Together, we'll make our association even better.



Our Mission:

The mission of the National Association of Rhythm & Blues Dee Jays is to:

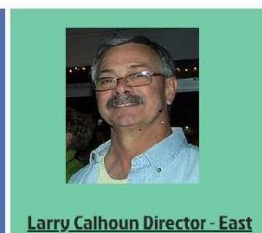
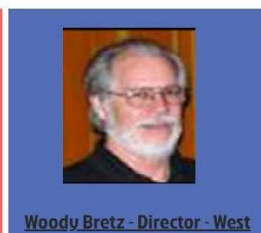
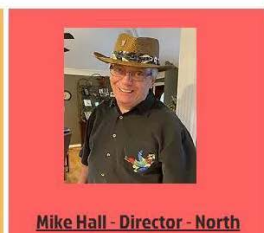
- a. Provide a national network of communication between deejays with a similar interest.
- b. Generate news and information about the association, its members, the music they play and the people who dance to it.
- c. Establish a system for honoring those who have promoted, preserved and perpetuated rhythm & blues music with distinction.
- d. Acknowledge and support the importance of each member's actions as well as the combined actions of the total membership.
- e. Encourage mutual cooperation and camaraderie between all types of dee jays and R&B associations.

The Board of Directors have 2 vacant seats that we are interested in getting filled as soon as possible. We are looking for active members, in good standing, to be a part of a great team of leaders and help us make the association even better.

If you are interested in being considered for the position of **Vice President** or **Secretary** please contact Rock Hall, President, or any other board member, as soon as possible. We look forward speaking with you.



2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



What is the Difference?

West Coast Swing, Bop, Shag, and R&B music are all distinct in their own ways:

1. West Coast Swing:

- **Dance Style:** West Coast Swing is a partner dance characterized by its smooth, elastic movement and emphasis on connection between partners.
- **Music:** Typically danced to blues, jazz, or contemporary pop music that has a steady 4/4 beat and a moderate tempo.
- **Characteristics:** It allows for improvisation and incorporates elements of other dance styles like Lindy Hop and blues dancing.

2. Bop (or Chicago Style Steppin'):

- **Dance Style:** Bop is a social dance that originated in Chicago and is known for its smooth, gliding steps and intricate footwork.
- **Music:** Bop is danced to a variety of music, including R&B, soul, and jazz, with a strong emphasis on rhythm and musicality.
- **Characteristics:** Bop incorporates precise footwork patterns and syncopated rhythms, often with dancers moving in a slot (linear fashion).

3. Shag:

- **Dance Style:** Shag refers to several different regional dance styles, including Carolina Shag and Collegiate Shag. These dances are characterized by fast footwork and energetic movements.
- **Music:** Shag is typically danced to upbeat swing music, such as early rock 'n' roll, rhythm and blues, or beach music.
- **Characteristics:** Shag features a lot of spinning, kicking, and intricate footwork patterns, often with an emphasis on flashy moves and acrobatics.

4. R&B Music:

- **Genre:** Rhythm and Blues (R&B) is a genre of popular music that originated in African-American communities in the 1940s. It combines elements of jazz, blues, and gospel music.
- **Characteristics:** R&B music typically features soulful vocals, strong rhythms, and often incorporates elements like horns, electric guitars, and keyboards.
- **Styles:** R&B encompasses a wide range of styles, from traditional blues and soul to modern urban and contemporary R&B.

In summary, West Coast Swing, Bop, and Shag are specific dance styles with their own techniques and music preferences, while R&B music is a genre that serves as the musical backdrop for various dance styles, including those mentioned above. Each dance style has its unique cultural and historical roots, influencing both the music it is danced to and the movements performed.



Why and What - Rhythm & Blues: Tom Claypool

Prior to the last century, most immigrants to the United States listened to and played the music of their homeland. The music of the Appalachian Mountain area evolved into what became early Country Music.

Slaves, particularly in the South, often sang their native songs in the fields as they worked. With the Christianization of these people, these melodies evolved into gospel music with a steady beat. Others, away from the church, melded these tunes into the beginnings of the Blues. Slaves and freemen of color in New Orleans gathered in an area of Congo Square where they were permitted one day a week to sing their songs from their native lands. The African and Caribbean rhythms were shared and enjoyed. When some of these men became skilled as musicians, they began to adopt European instruments into their repertoire. Becoming more skilled at this, they began to play the standards of the day using the stylings of their roots.

With the travel upriver of steamboats, musicians were hired to entertain the passengers. Many of the finer musicians found a better life and audience in the cities they visited in the North.

Thus, early Jazz migrated to the river cities and some larger cities as well.

Gospel became an integral part in the lives of most African-American families. Songs began to be written specifically for this audience as well as interpretations of older standard tunes. Much of the earlier music depended less on instruments and more on voices and handclaps for the rhythm.

In the thirties, forties, and fifties, there were several migrations due to depression and war to the North. In order to become more popular, jazz bands began to structure their music towards dancing, thus beginning the Swing movement. Their arrangements and songs were often copied or stolen by white musicians who helped bring the music to a larger public.

After World War II, more rural families headed North in search of better jobs, many industrial. A great many of the rural blues musicians found greener pastures in cities, most especially Chicago.

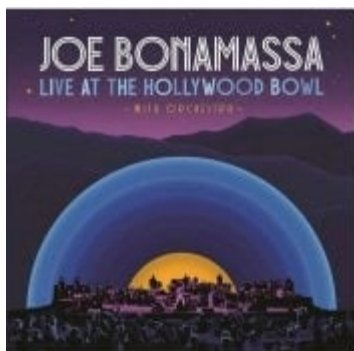
With the advent of amplification of guitars and the adding of percussion, Blues changed to more of an electric sound.

Most of the musicians in jazz and blues had in their personal makeup a rooting in Gospel music. The gumbo of blues, jazz, and gospel became Rhythm & Blues. The steady beat identified in Gospel drove Jazz and Swing as well as Electric Blues.

While all were different in their approach, they became labeled by the record companies as Rhythm & Blues. This was far better than their original terminology of Race music.

Billboard & iTunes #1 Blues Album - as of July 4, 2024 as reported by:

WWW.BLUESFESTIVALGUIDE.COM



**#1 Billboard
JOE BONAMASSA
Live At The
Hollywood Bowl
with Orchestra**



**#1 iTunes
TESKEY
BROTHERS
Run Home Slow**

Tom Claypool's Top 10:

- 1) Texas Time - Keith Urban
- 2) When It Was Wrong - California Honeydrops
- 3) Better Love Next Time - Dr. Hook
- 4) '62 Chevy - Keb Mo
- 5) Old Love Song - Zac Brown Band
- 6) Cold Heart - Elton John and Dua Lipa
- 7) I La View - Selwyn Birchwood
- 8) Roll With It - Billy Valentine
- 9) Down in Virginia - Little Jimmy Reed & Ben Levin
- 10) Losing My Cool - Al Basile

Closing Remarks:

Thank you for tuning in to this edition of our NARBDeJs newsletter! We hope you have enjoyed discovering new tracks and diving into the world of soulful rhythms with us. Remember, R&B music continues to evolve, and we're thrilled to share this journey with you.

Stay connected for more exclusive mixes, artist spotlights, and the latest updates in the R&B scene. Your feedback and suggestions are invaluable, so do not hesitate to reach out and let us know what you would like to see in future newsletters.

Until next time, keep grooving and spreading the love for R&B music!

Warm regards,

Rock Hall, President

National Association

